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Titusville Amateur Radio Club

TARC NEWSLETTER

September 1988

President: Ron Swank KB4DCZ 269-3087
Vice Pres: Dan Boyle K3KS 268-2469
Secretary: Dawn Jacobs KB4BNL 267-1896
Treasurer: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

President's Corner

Tis yet another month come and gone. at the last meeting we sent the bylaws back to committee for update. This has been done and being presented back to the membership for voting. I am going back to The Gambia in Africa so I will not be at the meeting, so Dan K3KS will run the club. I know that you will give him as much support as you give me. A suggestion as come up that some people in the club get together to put up a digipeter. This would not be paid for by the club but would be sponsored by TARC. If you would like more information call Wayne KB4YLY. That's if for this month, see you when I get back.

73's – Ron KB4DCZ

Classifieds

TI-59 Printer calculator with cradle, contact Archie WN3DHI, 267-8918.

The Editor's Desk

Alot of activities have recently happened and this may explain the fewer number of articles floating across my desk as I sit and type. Ron is in The Gambia, the Melbourne Hamfest has once again come and gone, hurricane Gilbert evoked havoc on anything in its path, and 146.91 was fairly quiet for a week while Les was visiting his wife Ethel.

I really can't imagine anyone in TARC not knowing Les, but he IS one of the more dynamic cornerstones of the club. He's active in HF and two meters, and is the lead of the technical committee (which usually means that he does more than his fair share of repeater maintaining). A few weeks ago I stopped by his house to pick him on my way to the IHOP (it was net night). You see, he didn't have the car; Ethel had driven to the bingo game. Earlier that week, Ethel had gone to the doctor because she just didn't feel well. Some lab tests were done, and she was to go back on Friday for the results. She went back and was told that she had had a mild heart attack. Yes, the heart attack took place BEFORE

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Upcoming Events

> September 27, October 25 – next TARC meetings, 7 p.m., JayCees Building on Singleton Ave.
> Every Thursday night – TARC Friendship Net, 7 p.m., 146.91 MHz
> Every Third Saturday – SBARC / ARRL exams, 9:30 a.m. registration, FIT room Q20 under ham radio mast

Minutes of the August 23rd Meeting

The 7:00 p.m. meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for departed hams.

– Repeater report – Les K4SJC bought a used collinear antenna, identical to the one that Gene WD4IZU had donated, while at the Huntsville Hamfest when he and Bud K4CWG were there the previous weekend. He is working on a hookup to temporarily install the antenna on the south railing of the walkway around the water tank. Receiver is working good with a trap to curb the problematic pager frequency.
– Treasurer's report – Clyde K4EOS noted that the club has on hand $727 plus. Does not include bill on cavities.
– President read minutes from the last meeting as entered in the monthly bulletin. Minutes were accepted as read and carried as a motion.

Old Business:

– Bylaws – went back to committee for corrections and changes. Will be posted in the next newsletter as corrected. Further inputs or corrections are welcome.
– ARRL affiliation – membership status still short of required percentage.
– Cavities – have been sent back to the vendor (Phelps-Dodge or successor) for inspection and

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Minutes cont'd

refurbishing as necessary. No feedback at this date.
– Feedline problem – old RG–8 had high losses – 1/2 heliax is available and will probably be used on the permanent installation.
– TVI – QRM committee is formed of people who have been the repeater technical committee – President has an input that someone has received a notice that they believe some repeater has been causing a TV problem. Will be looked into.
– Net control – still needs volunteers for the Thursday night net, 7:00 p.m.
– Art KH6GH distributed CD badges to those who have put in their requests for same.

New Business:

– Ron mentioned a KSC lightening investigation committee making a study of the problem at KSC. We may be benefitting from the findings.
– Wayne KB4YLY has been working on a plan to improve the field day layout, on antennas – precut and all rigged to haul–up: 40, 20, 15, and 2 meters. Other ideas were suggested.
– Les still has tickets for the September 11–12 Melbourne Hamfest, $3.00 ($4.00 at the door).
– Meeting was adjourned.

– Dan K3KS

Desk cont'd

bingo night. Before anyone knew what was happening, she was being flown via helicoptor to Florida Hospital South in Orlando in preparation for open heart surgery. A little over two weeks after that net/bingo night, Ethel returned home and is doing fine. Three weeks after that night, Les and Ethel were driving around town. I suspect that Ethel's speedy recovery will have her playing bingo before you read this. A little sidenote to all of this: after surgery this serious the patient is placed in the Intensive Care Unit for round–the–clock monitoring. Only family members are allowed to visit, and only for fifteen minutes every two hours. That leaves a worrying period of an hour and forty–five minutes that can really put a drain on those family members. After a couple of days of this, Les kept himself busy doing, what else, working on an HW–101 he found in the hospital's ham radio room.

Ah Gilbert! It seems a pity that the only time amateur radio gets on the news is when there's possibility of disaster. Listening to the emergency nets on 20 meters demonstrated the good and bad, although mostly good. For a while on the day that Gilbert was bearing down on Jamaica, there were more than one so–and–so's di–dahing SOS. When Net Control inquired as to their needs, there was no reply, although when the phone net resumed, so did the SOS–ing. On the other side, I heard the end acknowledgement of a message that got through from Jamaica to Stateside after Gilbert had gone through. I'm sure there were others just as similar, so I'll let you fill in the blanks. The message was basically "We got hold of <close fried or relative> on land–line, and told her that <friend or relative at or near the disaster area> was OK. She cried." It must be an incredibly good feeling to be called by a perfect stranger and being told of a friend's or relative's well being during such a time when all is unknown.

The tables at the Melbourne Hamfest are starting to look familiar. I think that PCARC tries to assign the same tables to everybody every year. I remember last year seeing someone selling an photographic enlarger. Same enlarger was there this year, but with a 'last chance' sign. I may have to buy it next year. PCARC did a good job once again this year. There were several people in our club that WOULD have won some door prizes this year (we compared ticket numbers being called with those that were sold in our club). The priciest door prize that someone would have gotten was a crank up Aluma aluminum tower. That ticket number was 489, by the way.

Ron is once again in Gambia, this time to support the launch of Discovery. For those of you who haven't looked it up in your world atlas yet, Gambia is a country about the size and shape of Brevard County. It lies on the west coast of Africa and, except for its western shore on the Atlantic Ocean, lies entirely within the country of Senegal. Hopefully the launch will go without a hitch and with minimal delays so that Ron will be back with us.

It is with regret to report that a member of our club, Bill Lathen WB9LCT, has passed away. I apologize that this wasn't reported in a more timely fashion in last month's newsletter. Having listened to Bonney WB9TUM, his wife, lovingly speak of him at a recent IHOP after–net gathering, I can sincerely say that the ham world has lost a caring and foresightful individual.

Hopefully by the time this hits the stands I will have received my latest whiz–bang gizmo, the MFJ multi–mode controller. I would be interested in performing a review between this multi–mode and others, including standalones, TNC's, and RTTY units. If you have any device that is used for any of the modes that these controllers use (i.e. RTTY, packet, morse, AMTOR, etc.) and have the time to get together to evaluate them under similar circumstances, give me a call and we'll try to separate the facts from the hype. I know that as a group we have the resources to achieve this and I don't mind knowing whether I just bought a box of solder and sand or something that is worth its cost.

Respectfully, Doug Reed – N4QVY

Memberships and Renewals for August

N4DOT-Bob, KK4EY-Lee, KB4FFK-Phil, KH6GH-Art, WA2IDZ-Richman, WA9NUS-Rick, KB4PRN-Jeremy, N4SMU-Sharon, KA4WIQ-John, K4ZAL-Merritt

HAM BBS Phone Numbers

Here are a couple of BBSes that have files and programs that support Amateur Radio:

N9HH 618–286–0251 2400 8N1
Bit–By–Bit 509–395–5655 2400 8N1